

MINUTES
of the
FIRST MEETING
of the
LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 9, 2005
State Capitol, Santa Fe

Representative Danice Picraux, chair, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. in Room 307, State Capitol, Santa Fe. Members, staff and attendees introduced themselves.

Present were:

Rep. Danice Picraux, chair
Sen. Dede Feldman, vice chair
Sen. Rod Adair
Rep. William "Ed" Boykin
Rep. Keith J. Gardner
Sen. Steve Komadina
Sen. Mary Kay Papen
Rep. Jim R. Trujillo

Absent were:

Advisory members:

Rep. Gail Beam
Sen. Sue Wilson Beffort
Rep. Ray Begaye
Rep. Miguel P. Garcia
Rep. John A. Heaton
Sen. Linda M. Lopez
Rep. James Roger Madalena
Rep. Rick Miera
Rep. Edward C. Sandoval
Rep. Gloria C. Vaughn

Rep. Kandy Cordova
Sen. Clinton D. Harden, Jr.
Sen. Timothy Z. Jennings
Sen. Gay G. Kernan
Rep. Antonio Lujan
Rep. Terry T. Marquardt
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino
Sen. Leonard Tsosie

Representative Picraux thanked Senator Feldman, the former chair, for her outstanding leadership, success in getting committee bills enacted into law and obtaining increased appropriations for programs supported by the committee.

The chair presented a list of major issues for the committee to consider this interim. Members discussed many specifics related to these topics, instructing staff to include them in communications with the various agencies expected to testify in the coming months. A list of the issues is attached to the original minutes.

The committee decided to hear from the Human Services, Health, Aging and Long-Term

Services and Children, Youth and Families departments and the New Mexico Health Policy Commission first, and that staff should work with the chair to develop all the agendas.

Committee members were requested to give their full attention to presenters and members speaking and to minimize use of laptop computers. Meeting dates recommended by the Legislative Council were adopted as presented, in order to minimize conflicts among voting members who have multiple interim committee assignments. The dates and locations are:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 9	Santa Fe
July 27-29	Santa Fe and Shiprock
August 24-26	Albuquerque
September 19-21	Las Cruces
October 19-21	Santa Fe
November 28-30	Santa Fe.

Public comment was offered by Susan Loubet, who drew the committee's attention to SJM 94, which calls for a study of reproductive health care disparities. Additional public comment was provided by Ellen Pinnes, who provided information from a recent Kaiser study indicating that New Mexico leads the nation in a trend of shifting health care costs to health insurance premiums. Dan Ritchey raised the issue of needed wage supplements for childcare teachers, as provided for in HM 22. The committee requested additional information about scholarships available through the T.E.A.C.H. program at a later time.

Raul Burciaga introduced Scott Leitz, director of the Office of Health Policy, Information and Systematics for the Minnesota Department of Health.

Mr. Leitz gave a presentation on his efforts in health care data collection and analysis based on statutory requirements in Minnesota. He offered rationale, benefits and sample key findings from the most recent study. He described how Minnesota legislators have used the data findings to set priorities and identify problem areas. He stressed the importance of objectivity in developing the annual study. He described a report that is mandated in Minnesota requiring health insurers to submit information.

Committee members had questions and comments about: the possibilities of forecasting; projected costs of conducting such a study; issues regarding collecting data from Native American tribes; how to accurately report uncompensated care; and ways to present the information to maximize use. Additional questions were posed to the New Mexico Health Policy Commission regarding its budget and its ability to produce such a report on an annual basis, if adequately funded.

Public comment was offered by Ms. Pinnes clarifying that consumer-directed care in the Medicaid program is different from consumer-directed insurance. She also applauded any efforts to project the impact of program changes on populations served, especially in the Medicaid program.

The chair requested that the July meeting have one day in Shiprock to address Native American issues. There was no objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.